

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY L/PM:JHSMITH:RR

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S E C R E T STATE 106671

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1, 2

TAGS: GW, GE, CU, CASC

SUBJECT: PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF: (A) BONN 7620; (B) BERLIN 2831

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS AND SMITH (L/PM) MET
WITH CONGRESSMAN GILMAN ON APRIL 25 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE

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OF PLAY IN PRISONER EXCHANGE. GILMAN REPORTED THAT HIS
TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA HAD GONE WELL AND CONFIRMED THAT VOGEL
WAS PLANNING TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON THE 26TH. GILMAN'S
OFFICE WILL ARRANGE FOR VOGEL TO BE PICKED UP AT THE AIRPORT
IN NEW YORK AND TAKEN TO HIS HOTEL, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND
IS THE ROOSEVELT. ON THE 27TH, VOGEL WILL TRAVEL TO
WASHINGTON FOR HIS MEETING WITH GILMAN. DETAILS OF THAT

MEETING ARE NOT YET DECIDED, BUT SMITH WILL ATTEND IN ORDER TO LISTEN TO VOGEL'S PRESENTATION. GILMAN'S OFFICE WILL BE IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH VOGEL CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOGEL'S TRAVEL FROM BERLIN TO NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON.

2. WE EMPHASIZED TO GILMAN THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF SHCHARANSKY OR SHADRIN SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD. WE PREFERRED A FIRST STAGE MEETING WHICH WOULD INCLUDE GILMAN,

VOGEL, KALMANOWITCH, SMITH AND DEPARTMENT INTERPRETER. WE EMPHASIZED THAT OUR ROLE MUST BE SUCH AS TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE WERE NEGOTIATING. WE WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE, IF ASKED, THAT A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER WAS PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER.

3. AT THE SECOND STAGE OF THE DISCUSSIONS GILMAN UNDERSTANDS THAT VOGEL MAY INVITE THE HEAD OF THE CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION TO MEET WITH GILMAN AS A WAY OF BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS ON A LUNT-LEBRON EXCHANGE. IF THAT HAPPENS, SMITH WILL SUGGEST THAT THE NEXT PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON LUNT-LEBRON BE BETWEEN THE CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION AND THE DEPARTMENT.

4. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED TO GILMAN THAT THE MEETING BE INFORMAL AND THAT THE PRESS NOT BE ADVISED OF ITS LOCATION.

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WE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE SHOULD BE AS LITTLE PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WAS NOT VERY LIKELY. GILMAN AGREED AND SAID THAT HIS MAJOR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO MAINTAIN A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH VOGEL. GILMAN DOES NOT WANT PUBLICITY TO PREJUDICE THESE OR FUTURE EXCHANGES.

5. GILMAN SAID THAT HE IS PRESENTLY NOT PLANNING TO GO TO BERLIN. DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING HAVING SMITH ACCOMPANY VOGEL AND THOMPSON TO BERLIN ON THE 30TH. WE WILL ADVISE SOONEST CONCERNING VOGEL'S TRAVEL PLANS FOR BERLIN. WE WILL MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR EMBASSY OFFICER, PFUND, ON THE HAMBURG, OR FRANKFURT LEG TO BERLIN. WE WILL ALSO ADVISE YOU AS SOON AS WE KNOW THE FORM OF THE PAPERS THOMPSON WILL HAVE.

6. DEPARTMENT ADVISED GILMAN OF OTHER POINTS CONCERNING VOGEL'S VISIT DESCRIBED PARA. 13 REF. (A). DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT BONN AND BERLIN ARE AFFECTING THE NECESSARY COORDINATION WITH RESPECT TO OTHER POINTS IN REFERENCES (A) AND (B). VANCE

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